

## MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC  
October 11, 2004

The Greenville City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, third floor of the Municipal Building, with Mayor Robert D. Parrott presiding. The meeting was called to order, followed by the invocation by Council Member Craft and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following were present.

Mayor Robert D. Parrott  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ric Miller  
Council Member Mildred A. Council  
Council Member Ray Craft  
Council Member Pat Dunn  
Council Member Rose H. Glover  
Council Member Chip Little  
Marvin W. Davis, City Manager  
Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk  
David A. Holec, City Attorney

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Craft to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Craft to approve all the items under the consent agenda as listed below. Motion carried unanimously.

- (1) Minutes of the August 23, August 29, August 30, September 1, and September 9, 2004 City Council meetings
- (2) Consideration of various tax refunds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
David Russell Hogar Alexander	Prorate taxes on vehicle	\$201.56
Mildred Parks Stallings	Taxpayer should have received the Old Age Exemption	\$184.35
Fifth Third Auto Lease	Prorate taxes on vehicle	\$145.73
Housing Technology Assoc.	Revaluation appeal value	
DBA Wedgewood Arms Apts.	change	\$2,256.11
- (3) Ordinance installing new stop signs at various locations (Ordinance No. 04-114)
- (4) Ordinance establishing a 25 MPH speed limit on Osceola Drive from Fourteenth Street to Fourteenth Street (Ordinance No. 04-115)
- (5) Ordinance establishing a 25 MPH speed limit on Fairview Way between Greenville Boulevard and Red Banks Road (Ordinance No. 04-116)

- (6) Resolution accepting dedication of public rights-of-way and easements (Resolution No. 04-44)

UPDATE BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD TASK FORCE ON THE PRESERVATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING AND SETTING A JOINT MEETING DATE OF DECEMBER 2, 2004, AT 6:00 P.M. AT SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Mr. Tom Best, Chair of the Neighborhood Task Force on the Preservation of Neighborhoods and Housing, stated that the Task Force has been meeting on a regular basis for the last six months. The group has listened to the concerns of citizens residing in single-family neighborhoods as well as others, heard from various City staff on current and emerging neighborhood issues, and explored a variety of strategies that, if adopted, might serve to stabilize and improve many existing single-family neighborhoods. He requested that the City Council extend the time for the Task Force to complete its mission for two months to allow time to hear from the public. The group has been working diligently; however, it would like to have more time to receive input from the neighborhoods. He asked that the Council have a joint meeting with the group at Sheppard Memorial Library on December 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Council Member Dunn and seconded by Council Member Council to extend the time for the Task Force to report to Council and to have a joint meeting with the Neighborhood Task Force on the Preservation of Neighborhoods and Housing at Sheppard Memorial Library on December 2, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY MS. SHANNON O'DONNELL, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Ms. Shannon O'Donnell, the Student Government Association President of East Carolina University, requested that the Council have someone go to campus and speak to the students about the upcoming bond referendum. She also requested a video on the bonds that can be played on a continuous basis in the Student Center.

Ms. O'Donnell stated that the Student Government Association is dealing with issues on the campus extending residence halls. The Administration is meeting with the Senate regarding this issue tonight. She stated that the University is reinstituting Town Hall meetings. She suggested having a special Town Hall meeting on the bond referendum.

Ms. O'Donnell concluded by expressing appreciation to the Council for allowing an opportunity for a Student Government representative to address the Council periodically.

PRESENTATION BY DR. DAVID AMES, CHAIR OF THE PITT COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

Dr. David Ames informed the Council that the Pitt County Substance Abuse Coalition grew out of an action taken by Council at a Citizen's Forum held in January 2002. The Council created three priorities, one of which was to deal with the drug problem in Greenville. At that time a number of employees with Eastern North Carolina Counseling Substance Abuse approached the City Manager and stated that they were interested in the community's drug problem and asked if

something could be done jointly. Out of that initiative the process began with an initial meeting with a variety of people from the County and City, and the group has been working together and meeting faithfully for the past two years. The group created a drug-free community Coalition to work towards a drug-free community. The Coalition looked at the following three strategies on how to deal with the drug problems in the community: (1) prevention, which is the most cost effective approach to addiction (2) treatments, screening intervention, and (3) interdiction, being law enforcement both overseas and locally. The Coalition group elected to focus on the first two issues, prevention and treatment. A mission statement was drafted that states, "Collaborative elements of efforts of all elements in the community working together to implement prevention programs that reduce underage use and enhance access to treatment for people in need." The Coalition then began looking for ways to implement these objectives and discovered the Federal Drug Free Community Sports Program, a national effort with coalitions across the country. The program's goals are to reduce substance abuse among youth, help Coalitions strengthen collaboration, enhance intergovernmental communication, and enable communities to conduct prevention planning. The Coalition applied for a grant in the spring through the Federal Drug Free Community Sports Program and has been awarded a grant for \$100,000. The Coalition must match the grant with a \$100,000 local in-kind match. The grant is renewable annually for at least five years. The six objectives that were submitted to the Federal Government for the grant included

- To establish a Coalition office and hiring an Executive Director
- To create a mechanism for measuring and reporting rates of substance use in this community
- To report the Coalition's achievements to the community
- To develop a public awareness program project to talk about substance abuse and to promote the willingness of this community to address the issues that would decrease the amount of denial and stigma associated with this, and put it on the table as a major issue that requires everyone's attention
- To address the needs of parents who have children who are at high risk for substance abuse;
- Working with children who are already identified

Dr. Ames concluded by stating that last year at Rose High School there were two classes with ten students that were at high risk for failure that met every semester. When the grant was being written there was enough interest and momentum that the project was implemented ahead of funding to expand the program, and the program is now in five other high schools. The Coalition's vision is to create a community wholly committed to prevention of substance abuse.

Mayor Parrott thanked Dr. Ames for his efforts.

Council Member Glover stated that she realized that the Coalition is something that the City needs and she appreciated the time and energy given by Dr. Ames and the Coalition members. Council Member Glover questioned the difference in the goals and objectives of the Coalition and those of Weed and Seed. Weed and Seed had strategies, prevention, intervention, treatment and community involvement. Council Member Glover informed Dr. Ames that she supports the Coalition, but that she has a lot of uncertainty. She asked how the Coalition would enter into the community.

Dr. Ames replied that one of the issues that came out of a forum was the observation that there are a lot of youth growing up in families without a father, and this is not good for either the children or the community. A strategy being used across the country to address this issue is the development of Drug Courts. Dr. Ames stated Ms. Williams with the United Way put together and led a committee that included the Pitt County Sheriff, the Chief District Judge and the District Attorney and some other people, who all bought into the idea of creating a Drug Court. The group wrote a grant to get federal money to operate a Drug Court, but was not funded. The group is going through the process anyway. The idea of a Drug Court is not to lock up the individual that is addicted to drugs but to divert the individual from jail into a treatment center and hold the individual in treatment for a long length of time. The Drug Court is a national strategy for addressing substance abuse among offenders with an outcome that is much better than incarceration. This is an idea that the Sheriff, the District Attorney and the Chief District Judge support.

Dr. Ames informed the Council that he has treated people with substance abuse all his life, but he has come to a stage where he realizes that he needs to do something more and is looking towards prevention. There is a project going on in Grifton where a group has created a community plan to address substance abuse in their community. The group is presently in the midst of sketching out what it will look like at the school level and the parent level.

Council Member Glover suggested that Dr. Ames contact groups that are already working in the community and that there needed to be a database of those particular groups who already have something close to what the Coalition is doing. She stated that with everyone working together, there could be more success. She has been trying to get groups focusing on the same issues to come together and form a 501(c)(3) to make it easier to get funding.

#### UPDATE ON GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 2, 2004

City Manager Davis informed the Council that the Bond Advocacy Committee and staff have been diligently trying to inform citizens of the need for the bonds. Information has been provided in the way of printed information, cablecast information, electronic information, information to groups, and information activities and special events. Ways of spreading the information have included distribution of fliers in business locations in concentrated areas on Memorial Drive, Arlington Boulevard, Greenville Boulevard, and downtown; putting posters up at public and business locations; putting fliers in outgoing correspondence, Greenville Utilities Commission bill inserts, and public buildings and high traffic areas for the public to pick up; information notices in the City Page; and a printed message on refuse bills. In regard to cablecast and electronic information, the City has produced an information video that is being run on GTV 9, run the video on other channels such as cable channels 7, 13 and 99; prepared a PowerPoint slide show that is running on GTV 9 and added bond information to the City's web site. In addition, presentations have been made to 58 groups, and 21 more are scheduled. Information has also been provided to neighborhood associations by giving them fliers to go in their newsletters and sending them electronic information. Information videos and DVD's have been reproduced for distribution. Information packets for flyers and videos have been mailed to the Black Ministerial Association members. Banners have been put up on the grounds of City facilities that have high visibility to the traveling public. Information booths have been set up at Sunday in the Park, Freeboot Friday, Pirate Palooza. Information fliers were put out at the Pitt

County Fair. A Chamber Insight on Issues is scheduled for October 13 at 8:00 a.m. at the Murphy Center. The Bond Advocacy Committee, co-chaired by Phil Dixon and Randy Royal, have been pursuing many activities. A Media Day has been scheduled for October 18 at 10:00 in the First Floor Conference Room to give the media an opportunity to learn more about the bonds.

Mayor Parrott recognized the staff, the Bond Advocacy Committee, Phil Dixon and Randy Royal on their diligence in getting the word out about the bonds.

#### NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP) AND GREENVILLE THOROUGHFARES UPDATE

Mr. Tom Tysinger, Director of Public Works, informed the Council that the Memorandum of Understanding to Expand the Metropolitan Planning Organization to include Simpson and Ayden has been approved by all the entities involved, including Ayden, Simpson, Winterville, Greenville and Pitt County. Mr. Tysinger provided an update on the following projects:

Southwest By-Pass. The right-of-way phase was originally scheduled for FY 2007 to begin, but has been moved back to 2009 because an alternative is being evaluated to avoid the problem with a historic district as well as an alternative to carry the bypass south of Ayden. Both of the subject matters are on a good course, and alternatives are established that will work with both of the groups. It is now a matter of collecting environmental information for the alternatives so that process can continue. The schedule at this point is to select the preferred alternative for the Southwest Bypass in January 2006. Once that alternative is established, staff can begin protecting right-of-way through development processes, but until then nothing can be done as far as protecting right-of-way. Filing environmental documents are scheduled for September 2007. Construction is still scheduled for post years of the Transportation Improvement Program, which at this point will probably be 2012 if the City goes with conventional construction, but there is discussion about doing design/build for this project, which could move construction up as much as 2009/2010. Fire Tower Road is still in litigation and construction could start somewhere between 12 and 14 months depending on when litigation is resolved.

Tenth Street Connector. There have been indications that the right-of-way acquisition for the Tenth Street Connector could start as early as October 2007 with construction still scheduled for October 2009, depending on the engineering work to be coordinated by the City as a result of the agreement with the University and the Hospital. Jimmy Horne and Associates has been identified as the firm to do this work and staff is now in the process of negotiating a scope, so a contract can be brought to Council in October or November. It will take approximately 24 months to get through the environmental documents for this project. With the Municipal Agreement, the City has three years from the date of the agreement but will try to get it done quicker than that.

Widening of Evans Street from Greenville Boulevard to Worthington Road in Winterville. This project is funded in the State's Transportation Improvement Program for planning and environmental studies. They will go ahead and do the work and develop a cost estimate to help move the project through the Transportation Improvement Program process. Staff has indicated to the North Carolina Department of Transportation that this is the highest unfunded priority for the Metropolitan Planning Organization. All other priority projects are funded in some capacity

or in some form and are now in the State's program. Also discussed were ways to alleviate or improve some of the problems that are on Evans Street, such as maintenance work for three lane widening, extra turning lanes at intersections, and signal timing issues particularly at Fire Tower Road and Evans Street.

Arlington Boulevard Extension. This was added to the Transportation Improvement Program in March 2004 with an estimated cost of \$1.7 million. The property is being provided by East Carolina University for the right-of-way and is scheduled to be bid in March 2005 with construction to follow shortly thereafter. It will take approximately nine to twelve months to build.

NC 33 West from Greenville to Tarboro. Alternatives are currently being evaluated for this project--whether the road is going to be a four-lane divided major highway or a facility that would have improvements such as turn lanes, intersection improvements, and shoulder widening. There is a public meeting scheduled for October 21 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at Belvoir Elementary School to receive public comments. Someone from Greenville will be present to represent Greenville.

#### REVIEW OF OCTOBER 14, 2004 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The Council did a cursory review of the items on the October 14, 2004 City Council Meeting agenda and reviewed the appointments to Boards and Commissions.

City Manager Davis reported that Marion Blackburn and Donald Williams submitted requests to speak at the October 14 meeting regarding the City property on NC Highway 33 East.

Motion was made by Council Member Dunn and seconded by Council Member Council to add Marion Blackburn and Donald Williams as speakers to the October 14 City Council agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

After brief discussion about where they should be inserted in the agenda, motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Glover to have them speak after the public hearings. Motion carried unanimously.

#### COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Dunn informed the Council that the Task Force on Neighborhoods and Housing will be having a public meeting on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. She also stated that the Police Community Relations Committee would be meeting on October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Jaycee Park.

Council Member Council informed the public of the importance of the bonds. She is available to talk to any groups that may desire more information. She also stated that she is excited about all the groundbreakings the City has been having lately.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller stated that he will be hosting a meeting at Cypress Glen for District 3 at 3:00 p.m. on October 19 regarding the bonds. He gave an open invitation for people to attend.

He also stated that the Fire/Rescue Appreciation Dinner is being held on the 12th. He expressed his appreciation to all the firefighters.

Council Member Glover stated that she cannot go to the Fire/Rescue Appreciation Dinner because of other commitments. She encouraged others to get out and vote on the bond issue, informing them that all funds for West Greenville will be used in West Greenville. She informed the public that it has to make the Council accountable for what the Council says it is going to do. All of the bonds are important. She provided information on who to contact if people have questions about the bonds. She stated that this is not enough money to do everything that needs to be done; however, it is a start. She urged citizens to look at and consider what is being offered in the West Greenville community.

Council Member Little stated that he has been receiving questions about whether Halloween would be observed on Saturday and Sunday.

City Manager Davis stated that he doesn't think the City should sanction a certain day for people to celebrate Halloween.

Chief Simonowich informed the Council that there is a home football game on Saturday night and then Halloween is on Sunday night. The Police Department will be prepared for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. There will be 120 officers on the street Sunday and about 17 to 20 ALE Officers.

Council Member Craft stated that the Mayor and Council Members Council and Craft attended the dedication at Oakwood School. It was a nice affair. He also encouraged people to support the bonds.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### Halloween Planning Meeting

City Manager Davis reminded the Council that during Halloween weekend, the City will be receiving mutual aid from such agencies as the Pitt County Sheriff's Department, Farmville, ALE, etc.

### Public Meetings for the Redevelopment Plan scheduled for November 9 and 10, 2004

City Manager Davis reported that there will be open house meetings to present a draft plan and solicit public input on November 9 and 10.

### Public Meeting for the Task Force on the Preservation of Neighborhoods and Housing scheduled for October 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

City Manager Davis reminded the Council of the public meeting for the Task Force on the Preservation of Neighborhoods and Housing that is scheduled for October 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Update regarding Federal Legislative Agenda/Earmark Requests

City Manager Davis stated that there is not much to report on the earmarks. Congress has acted on two. If the earmarks do not get acted on the week of November 15, they will have to wait until January. The Transportation Reauthorization Bill has been delayed until May 2005.

Fire Prevention Week

Chief of Fire/Rescue Mike Burton gave an update of the activities planned for Fire Prevention Week. He informed the Council that because of the numerous activities that go on, it has been expanded to three weeks. They have reached all public schools and many private schools. He will have more details after Fire Prevention Week is over.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Glover to go into closed session (1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, said law rendering the information as privileged or confidential being the Open Meetings Law (2) to establish or to instruct the public's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease and (3) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Dunn and seconded by Council Member Little to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Little to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, CMC  
City Clerk